

39 (New). A method according to claim 38, including the step of contacting said porous device with a first reagent under conditions which cause said first reagent to react with said active material, so that a bond is formed between the active material and said first reagent (or a fragment thereof).

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40 (New). A method according to claim 38, which involves contacting said porous device with reagents in order to prepare a compound which is covalently bonded to the active material of the porous device.

41 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein said active material is arranged to act as a support for a compound prepared in solid phase synthesis.

42 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein said active material includes a linker or is covalently bonded to a linker in said synthesis.

43 (New). A method according to claim 38, which includes the step of cleaving a compound prepared from the active material.

44 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein material(s) which make(s) up said internal region is/are fixed in position in said internal region.

45 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein the arrangement and/or position of particles of said active material is predetermined.

46 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein said internal region is not flowable.

47 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein said internal region comprises a random network of pores which network has a substantially fixed configuration.

48 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device has a predetermined shape.

49 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein the porosity at a surface of the device is substantially the same as the porosity of the internal region adjacent said surface.

50 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device is substantially self-supporting.

51 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein said internal region of said porous device is defined by active material such that said internal region consists essentially of active material.

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cont.
52 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device comprises an inert material and an active material.

53 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein the inert material is arranged to entrap the active material within the internal region of the device.

54 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein said inert material defines a porous support means and said active material is arranged within pores of said porous support means.

55 (New). A method according to claim 52, wherein said active material is not covalently bonded to said porous support means.

56 (New). A method according to claim 52, wherein the active material is in the form of a multiplicity of individual particles, wherein said particles are separated from one another by said inert material.

57 (New). A method according to claim 52, wherein said inert material is a thermoplastic.

58 (New). A method according to claim 38, wherein particles of said active material are substantially spherical.


59 (New). A method of synthesizing a plurality of different compounds, the method using a plurality of porous devices of the type described in claim 38, the method including contacting a first said porous device with a first sequence of reagents and contacting a second said porous device with a second sequence of reagents wherein said first and second sequences of reagents are different, thereby to prepare different compounds on said first and second porous devices.

60 (New). A method according to claim 59, which is a method of synthesizing N different compounds, wherein N is a positive integer, using N porous devices, the method including using N different sequences of reagents and contacting said porous devices with a respective sequence thereby to prepare respective different compounds on said porous devices.

61 (New). A method according to claim 59, wherein said devices include identifying means for uniquely identifying the devices from one another.

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62 (New). A method of effecting an interaction between an active material and another material (hereinafter an "interacting material"), the method using a porous device comprising a body having an internal region which is porous, wherein said active material is entrapped within the internal region.

63 (New). A porous device comprising a body having an internal region which is porous, wherein an active material is entrapped within the internal region.

 64 (New). A device according to claim 63, wherein said active material includes a linker.

65 (New). A device according to claim 63, wherein said device includes an identification means associated therewith.

66 (New). A collocation or an assembly comprising a plurality of porous devices according to claim 63.

67 (New). A collocation or assembly according to claim 66, wherein each porous device includes a unique identification means.

68 (New). A collocation or assembly according to claim 66, wherein the devices support a plurality of different compounds.

69 (New). A method of synthesizing a library of compounds, the method using a plurality of porous devices according to claim 63 and including the step of subjecting each porous device to a unique sequence of treatments and/or reactions, thereby to prepare different compounds on the porous devices.

70 (New). A method of manufacturing a porous device as described in claim 38, the method comprising causing a body having a porous internal region to form with an active material entrapped therewithin.

71 (New). A method according to claim 70, which comprises co-sintering particles of an inert material with particles of an active material thereby to define the internal region of said porous device.

72 (New). A method according to claim 70, wherein said active material is for use in a method of synthesis; or is a reagent for use in a chemical reaction; or is a catalyst for use in a chemical reaction.

73 (New). A substrate for use in solid phase chemistry comprising

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a chemically active specie bearing or containing accessible functionality
and a matrix forming material.

74 (New). The use of a substrate according to claim 73, as a substrate in
solid phase chemistry.